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**PROVIDENTLY**, *adv.* [from *provident*.] With foresight; with wise precaution.  
Nature having designed water-fowls to fly in the air, and live in the water, she *providently* makes their feathers of such a texture, that they do not admit the water. *Boyle*.  
**PROVIDER**, *n. f.* [from *providere*.] He who provides or procures.

Here's money for my meat,  
I would have left it on the board, so soon  
As I had made my meal, and parted thence  
With prayers for the provider. *Shakefp.*

**PROVINCE**, *n. f.* [from *provincia*, Fr. *provincia*, Latin.]

1. A conquered country; a country governed by a delegate.  
Those *provinces* these arms of mine did conquer. *Shak.*  
Greece, Italy and Sicily were divided into commonwealths, till swallowed up, and made *provinces* by Rome. *Temple.*  
See them broke with toils, or sunk in ease,  
Or infamous for plunder'd *provinces*. *Pope.*
2. The proper office or business of any one.  
I am fit for honour's toughest task;  
Nor ever yet found fooling was my *province*. *Orway.*  
Nor can I alone sustain this day's *province*. *More.*  
'Tis thine, what'er is pleasant, good or fair;  
All nature is thy *province*, life thy care. *Dryden.*  
'Tis not the pretor's *province* to bestow  
True freedom. *Dryden's Persius.*  
The woman's *province* is to be careful in her economy,  
and chaste in her affection. *Tatler.*
3. A region; a tract.  
Over many a tract  
Of heav'n they march'd, and many a *province* wide. *Milt.*  
Their understandings are cooped up in narrow bounds;  
so that they never look abroad into other *provinces* of the intellectual world. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

**PROVINCIAL**, *adj.* [from *provincia*, Fr. from *provincia*.]

1. Relating to a province.  
The duke dare not more stretch  
This finger of mine, than he dare rack his own;  
His subject am I not, nor here *provincial*. *Shakefp.*
2. Appendant to the provincial country.  
Some have delivered the policy of spirits, and left an account even to their *provincial* dominions. *Brown.*
3. Not of the mother country; rude; unpolished.  
They build and treat with such magnificence,  
That, like th' ambitious monarchs of the age,  
They give the law to our *provincial* stage. *Dryden.*  
A country 'quire having only the *provincial* accent upon his tongue, which is neither a fault, nor in his power to remedy, must marry a cast wench. *Swift.*
4. Belonging only to an archbishop's jurisdiction; not acumenical.  
A law made in a *provincial* synod, is properly termed a *provincial* constitution. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

**PROVINCIAL**, *n. f.* [from *provincia*, Fr. from *provincia*.] A spiritual governor.

Valignanus was *provincial* of the Jesuits in the Indies. *Still.*  
**TO PROVINCE**, *v. a.* [from *provincia*.] To turn to a province. A word not in use.

When there was a design to *provinciate* the whole kingdom, Druma, though offered a canton, would not accept of it. *Howel's Focal Forest.*

**TO PROVINCE**, *v. n.* [from *provincer*, Fr.] To lay a stock or branch of a vine in the ground to take root for more encrease.

**PROVISION**, *n. f.* [from *provisio*, Fr. *provisio*, Latin.]

1. The act of providing beforehand.  
Kalandar knew, that *provision* is the foundation of hospitality, and thrift the jewel of magnificence. *Sidney.*
2. Measures taken beforehand.  
Five days we do allot thee for *provision*,  
To shield thee from disasters of the world. *Shakefp.*  
He preserved all points of humanity, in taking order and making *provision* for the relief of strangers distressed. *Bacon.*  
The prudent part is to propole remedies for the present evils, and *provisions* against future events. *Temple.*  
Religion lays the strictest obligations upon men, to make the best *provision* for their comfortable subsistence in this world, and their salvation in the next. *Tillotson.*
3. Accumulation of stores beforehand; stock collected.  
Mendoza advertised, that he would valiantly defend the city, so long as he had any *provision* of victuals. *Kneller.*  
In such abundance lies our choice,  
As leaves a greater store of fruit untouch'd,  
Still hanging incorruptible, till men  
Grow up to their *provision*. *Milton.*  
David, after he had made such vast *provision* of materials for the temple, yet because he had dip't his hands in blood, was not permitted to lay a stone in that sacred pile. *South.*
4. Victuals; food; provender.  
He caused *provisions* to be brought in. *Clarendon.*  
*Provisions* laid in large for man or beast. *Milton.*
5. Stipulation; terms settled.  
This law was only to reform the degenerate English, but there was no care taken for the reformation of the mere Irish, *Watts.*

no ordinance, no *provision* made for the abolishing of their barbarous customs. *Drake on Ireland.*

**PROVISIONAL**, *adj.* [from *provisio*, Fr. from *provisio*.] Temporarily established; provided for present need.

The commendam fencibles grew out of a natural equity, that, in the time of the patron's reprieve given him to protect, the church should not be without a *provisional* pastor. *Ayliffe.*

**PROVISIONALLY**, *adv.* [from *provisio*, Fr. from *provisio*.] By way of provision.

The abbot of St. Martin was born, was baptized, and declared a man *provisionally*, till time should show what he would prove, nature had moulded him to untowardly. *Locke.*

**PROVISO**, *n. f.* [Latin: as, *provisio rem ita se habitatione esse*.] Stipulation; caution; provisional condition.

This *provisio* is needful, that the sheriff may not have the like power of life as the marshal hath. *Spenser.*  
Some will allow the church no further power, than only to exhort, and this but with a *provisio* too, that it extends not to such as think themselves too wise to be advised. *South.*  
He doth deny his prisoners,  
But with *provisio* and exception,  
That we, at our own charge, shall ransom strait  
His brother-in-law. *Shakefp. Henry IV.*

**PROVOCATION**, *n. f.* [from *provocatio*, Lat. *provocatio*, Fr.]

1. An act or cause by which anger is raised.  
It is a fundamental law, in the Turkish empire, that they may, without any other *provocation*, make war upon Christendom for the propagation of their law. *Bacon.*  
Tempt not my swelling rage  
With black reproaches, scorn and *provocation*. *Smith.*
2. An appeal to a judge.  
A *provocation* is every act, whereby the office of the judge or his assistance is asked; a *provocation* including both a judicial and an extrajudicial appeal. *Ayliffe.*
3. I know not whether, in the following passage, it be appeal or incitement.  
The like effects may grow in all towards their pastor, and in their pastor towards every of them, between whom there daily and interchangeably pass in the hearing of God himself, and in the presence of his holy angels, so many heavenly acclamations, exultations, *provocations*, and petitions. *Haster.*

**PROVOCATIVE**, *n. f.* [from *provocatio*.] Any thing which revives a decayed or cloyed appetite.

There would be no variety of tastes to solicit his palate, and occasion excess, nor any artificial *provocatives* to relieve satiety. *Auliffon.*

**PROVOCATIVENESS**, *n. f.* [from *provocatio*.] The quality of being provocative.

**TO PROVOKE**, *v. a.* [from *provocare*, Fr. *provocare*, Latin.]

1. To rouse; to excite by something offensive; to awake.  
Ye *provoke* me unto wrath, burning incense unto other Gods. *Jer. xlv. 8.*  
Neither to *provoke* nor dread  
New war *provok'd*. *Milton.*  
To whet their courage, and their rage *provokes*, *Dryden.*  
I neither fear, nor will *provoke* the war. *Dryden.*
2. To anger; to enrage; to offend; to incense.  
Though often *provoked*, by the insolence of some of the bishops, to a dislike of their overmuch fervour, his integrity to the king was without blemish. *Clarendon.*  
Such acts  
Of contumacy will *provoke* the highest. *Milton.*  
Agamemnon *provokes* Apollo against them, whom he was willing to appease afterwards. *Pope.*
3. To cause; to promote.  
Dink is a great provoker; it *provokes* and unprovokes. *Shak.*  
Oas Petro covered up his patient with warm cloaths, and when the fever began a little to decline, gave him cold water to drink till he *provoked* sweat. *Arbuthnot.*

**TO PROVOKE**, *v. n.*

1. To appeal. A Latinism.  
Arius and Pelagius dust *provoked*. *Dryden.*  
To what the centuries preceding spoke.
2. To produce anger.  
It was not your brother's evil disposition made him seek his death, but a *provoking* merit. *Shakefp. King Lear.*  
The Lord abhorred them, because of the *provoking* of his sons. *Deutr. xxxii. 19.*  
If we consider man in such a loathsome and *provoking* condition, was it not love enough, that he was permitted to enjoy a being. *Taylor.*

**PROVOKER**, *n. f.* [from *provocare*.]

1. One that raises anger.  
As in all civil insurrections, the ringleader is looked on with a peculiar severity, so, in this case, the first *provoker* has double portion of the guilt. *Government of the Tongue.*
2. Causar.

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2. Causar; promoter.  
Drink, Sir, is a great *provoker* of noisepainting, sleep, and urine. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

**PROVOKINGLY**, *adv.* [from *provocare*.] In such a manner as to raise anger.

When we see a man that yesterday kept a humiliation, today invading the possessions of his brethren, we need no other proof how hypocritically and *provokingly* he confessed his pride. *Deacy of Piety.*

**PROVOST**, *n. f.* [from *provost*, Sax. *provost*, Fr. *provost*, Ital. *provost*, Lat.]

1. The chief of any body: as, the provost of a college.
2. The executioner of an army.  
Kingston, *provost* marshal of the king's army, was deemed not only cruel but inhuman in his executions. *Hayward.*  
**PROVOSTSHIP**, *n. f.* [from *provost*.] The office of a provost.  
C. Pico first rose, and afterwards was advanced to the *provostship* of Rome by Tiberius. *Hakewill.*  
**PROW**, *n. f.* [from *proa*, Fr. *proa*, Spanish; *proa*, Lat.] The head or forepart of a ship.  
The sea-victory of Vespasian was a lady holding a palm in her hand, at her foot the *proa* of a ship. *Peacham.*  
Straight to the Dutch he turns his dreadful *proa*,  
More fierce th' important quarrel to decide. *Dryden.*  
**PROW**, *adj.* Valiant. *Spenser.*

**PROWESS**, *n. f.* [from *proeza*, Italian; *proeza*, Fr.] Bravery; valour; military gallantry.

Men of such *prowe*, as not to know fear in themselves, and yet to teach it in others that should deal with them; for they had often made their lives triumph over most terrible dangers, never dismayed, and ever fortunate. *Sidney.*  
I hope  
That your wisdom will direct my thought,  
Or that your *prowe* can me yield relief. *Pa. Queen.*  
By heav'n's mere grace, not by our *prowe* done. *F. 2u.*

Henry the fifth,  
By his *prowe* conquered all France. *Shakefp.*  
Nor should thy *prowe* want praise and esteem,  
But that 'tis shewn in treason. *Shakefp. Henry VI.*

Those are they  
First seen in acts of *prowe* eminent,  
And great exploits; but of true virtue void. *Milton.*

These beyond compare of mortal *prowe*. *Milton.*  
Michael of celestial armies prince;  
And thou in military *prowe* next,  
Gabriel! *Milton's Par. Lost, l. vi.*

The vigour of this arm was never vain,  
And that my wonted *prowe* I retain,  
Witness these heaps of laughter on the plain. *Dryden.*

These were the entertainments of the softer nations, that fill under the virtue and *prowe* of the two last empires. *Temp. adj.*

**PROWESE**, *adj.* [the superlative formed from *prowe*, *adj.*]

1. Bravest; most valiant.  
They be two of the *prowe* knights on ground,  
And oft approv'd in many a hard assay,  
And eke of furest steel, that may be found,  
Do arm yourself against that day them to confound. *F. 2.*
2. Brave; valiant.

The fairest of her sex, Angelica,  
His daughter, fought by many *prowe* knights. *Milton.*

**TO PROWL**, *v. a.* [Of this word the etymology is doubtful: the old dictionaries write *prole*, which the dreamer *Cogitation* derives from *prole*, ready, quick. *Skinner*, a far more judicious etymologist, deduces it from *prole*, a diminutive formed by himself from *prole*, to prey, Fr. perhaps it may be formed, by accidental corruption, from *prole*.] To rove over.

He *prows* each place, still in new colours deckt,  
Sucking one's ill, another to infect. *Sidney.*

**TO PROWL**, *v. n.* To wander for prey; to prey; to plunder.  
The champion robbeth by night,  
And *proweleth* and filcheth by daie. *Tusser.*  
Nor do they bear so quietly the loss of some parcels confiscated abroad, as the great detriment which they suffer by some *prowele* vice-admiral or publick minister. *Raleigh.*

As when a *prowele* wolf,  
Whom hunger drives to seek new haunt for prey. *Milton.*  
Shall he, who looks erect on heav'n,  
E'er stoop to mingle with the *prowele* herd,  
And dip his tongue in gore. *Thomson.*

And here the fell attorney *prows* for prey. *Anon.*

**PROWLER**, *n. f.* [from *prowl*.] One that roves about for prey.

On churchyards drear,  
The disappointed *prower* fall, and dig  
The shroud'd body from the grave. *Thomson.*

**PROXIMATE**, *adj.* [from *proximus*, Lat.] Next in the series of ratiocination; near and immediate; opposed to remote and mediate.

Writing a theory of the deluge, we were to shew the *proximate* natural causes of it. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*  
Substance is the remote genus of bird, because it agrees not only to all kinds of animals, but also to things inanimate;

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but animal is the *proximate* or nearest genus of bird, because it agrees to fewest other things. *Watts's Logick.*

**PROXIMATELY**, *adv.* [from *proximate*.] Immediately; without intervention.

The consideration of our mind, which is incorporeal, and the contemplation of our bodies, which have all the characters of excellent contrivance; these alone easily and *proximately* guide us to the wise author of all things. *Bentley.*

**PROXIME**, *adj.* [from *proximus*, Lat.] Next; immediate.

A syllogism is made up of three propositions, and these of three terms variously joined: the three terms are called the remote matter of a syllogism, the three propositions the *proxime* or immediate matter of it. *Watts's Logick.*

**PROXIMITY**, *n. f.* [from *proximitas*, Fr. *proximitas*, from *proximus*, Lat.] Nearness.

When kingdoms have customably been carried by right of succession, according to *proximity* of blood, the violation of this course hath always been dangerous. *Hayward.*

If he plead *proximity* of blood,  
That empty title is with ease withstood. *Dryden.*  
Add the convenience of the situation of the eye, in respect of its *proximity* to the brain, the seat of common sense. *Ray.*

I can call to my assistance  
*Proximity*, mark that! and distance. *Prior.*  
Must we send to stab or poison all the popish princes, who have any pretended title to our crown by the *proximity* of blood? *Swift's Miscellanies.*

**PROXY**, *n. f.* [By contraction from *procurator*.]

1. The agency of another.
2. The substitution of another; the agency of a substitute; appearance of a representative.  
None acts a friend by a deputy, or can be familiar by *proxy*. *South's Sermons.*  
Had Hyde thus sat by *proxy* too,  
As Venus once was laid to do,  
The painter must have search'd the skies,  
To match the lustre of her eyes. *Granville.*

3. The person substituted or deputed.  
A wife man will commit no business of importance to a *proxy*, where he may do it himself. *L'Estrange.*

**PRUCE**, *n. f.* [Pruce is the old name for Prussia.] Prussian leather.

Some leathern bucklers use  
Of folded hides, and others shields of *pruce*. *Dryden.*

**PRUDE**, *n. f.* [from *prude*, Fr.] A woman over nice and scrupulous, and with false affectation.

The graver *prude* sinks downward to a gnome,  
In search of mischief, still on earth to roam. *Pope.*  
Not one careless thought intrudes,  
Less modest than the speech of *prudes*. *Swift.*

**PRUDENCE**, *n. f.* [from *prudencia*, Fr. *prudencia*, Lat.] Wisdom applied to practice.

Under *prudence* is comprehended, that discrete, apt, suiting, and disposing as well of actions as words, in their due place, time and manner. *Peacham.*

*Prudence* is principally in reference to actions to be done, and due means, order, season, and method of doing or not doing. *Hale.*

**PRUDENT**, *adj.* [from *prudens*, Fr. *prudens*, Lat.]

1. Practically wise.  
The simple inherit folly, but the *prudent* are crowned with knowledge. *Pr. v. xiv. 18.*  
I have seen a son of Jesse, that is a man of war, and *prudent* in matters. *1 Sam. xvi. 18.*  
The monarch prevented all reply,  
*Prudent*, lest others might offer. *Milton.*
2. Foreseeing by natural instinct.  
So steers the *prudent* crane  
Her annual voyage. *Milton.*

**PRUDENTIAL**, *adj.* [from *prudens*.] Eligible on principles of prudence.

He acts upon the surest and most *prudential* grounds, who, whether the principles, which he acts upon, prove true or false, yet secures a happy issue to his actions. *South.*

Motives are only *prudential*, and not demonstrative. *Tillot.*  
These virtues, though of excellent use, some *prudential* rules it is necessary to take with them in practice. *Rogers.*

**PRUDENTIALS**, *n. f.* Maxims of prudence or practical wisdom.

Many stanzas, in poetick measures, contain rules relating to common *prudentials*, as well as to religion. *Watts.*

**PRUDENTIALITY**, *n. f.* [from *prudens*.] Eligibility on principles of prudence.

Being incapable rightly to judge the *prudentiality* of affairs, they only gaze upon the visible success, and thereafter condemn or cry up the whole progression. *Brown.*

**PRUDENTIALLY**, *adv.* [from *prudens*.] According to the rules of prudence.

If he acts piously, soberly and temperately, he acts *prudentially* and safely. *South's Sermons.*

**PRUDENTLY**, *adv.* [from *prudens*.] Discreetly; judiciously.  
These laws were to *prudently* framed, as they are found fit for all succeeding times. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
Such